

NOTE

New Distributional and Rearing Records for
Neotropical Flower Flies (Diptera: Syrphidae)

The biology of most Neotropical flower flies is poorly known. In this paper, I report new information on the distribution, flower visitation, or larval habitat of 4 syrphids.

Copestylum sexmaculatum (Palisot de Beauvois) (= *C. pallens* of authors).—First state record: Illinois, Pope County, Bell Smith Springs Rec. Area, 19 July 1975, 1 ♂ feeding on blossoms of *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium* Schrad. (Labiatae). Wirth et al. (1965. In Stone et al., Cat. Diptera America North of Mexico, Agric. handbook 276: 602) and Thompson (1981. Mem. Entomol. Soc. Wash. 9: 138–139) reported this fly from North Carolina, Florida to Arizona, and the West Indies.

Meromacrus panamensis Curran.—First United States record: Texas, Cameron County, Sabal Palm Grove Sanctuary, 14 December 1984, 1 ♂ feeding on blossoms of *Xylosma flexuosa* (H.B.K.) O. Ktze. (Flacourtiaceae). Thompson (ibid.: 157; 1985, pers. comm.) previously noted that this species is distributed from Mexico to Brazil.

Meromacrus pratorum (Fabricius).—First rearing record: Puerto Rico, El Yunque Rec. Area, 1 ♂ reared from larva collected in fluid and debris of upright flower bract of *Heliconia* sp. (Musaceae) on 29 May 1981. Sack (1921. Arch. Naturgesch. (Abt. A) 87(3): 144–145) reported that rat-tailed larvae of *M. pratorum* live in sediment of wet rot pockets of trees. His identification was apparently incorrect because Thompson (1981: 157) found *M. pratorum* to be endemic to the West Indies. Snow (1958. Ecology 39:

83–88) observed larvae of *M. acutus* (Fabricius) in decaying stumps filled with water. The larval habitat of *M. pratorum* in Puerto Rico more closely resembles that of *Quichuana angustiventris* (Macquart) reared from *Heliconia* bracts by Seifert and Seifert (1976. J. N.Y. Entomol. Soc. 94: 233–242; 1979. Ecology 60: 462–467) than that of other *Meromacrus* species. Additional study is needed to determine the diversity of larval habitats used by species of *Meromacrus* and related genera.

Polybiomyia macquarti Shannon.—First rearing record: Texas, Cameron County, Sabal Palm Grove Sanctuary, 2 ♀ reared from larvae collected from sap-soaked detritus in small rot pocket in trunk of *Leucaena pulverulenta* (Schlecht.) Benth. (Leguminosae) on 14 December 1984. Other cerioidine species reared by Johnson (1893. Entomol. News 4: 91), Banks (1902. Proc. Entomol. Soc. Wash. 5: 310) and Maier (1982. Proc. Entomol. Soc. Wash. 84: 603–609) have similar larval habitats.

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Chris T. Maier, *Department of Entomology, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, P.O. Box 1106, New Haven, Connecticut 06504.*